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"If It's Spanish, It's in This Book!"

MORENO'S
Dictionary of
SPANISH-NAMED CALIFORNIA CITIES AND TOWNS

Containing:

The definition and correct pronunciation of every Spanish-named City, Town, Village and Hamlet in California; the heretofore practically unknown origin of the name of California and the much-less known derivation and definition of the name of every County in the State.

Compiled from the latest U. S. Postal and Parcel Zone Guides; California Blue Book; Velazquez Dictionary; Southern Pacific & Union Pacific Maps and Authentic Sources.

AN ACCURATE, READY REFERENCE

For All Schools, Newspaper Offices, Etc.

Compiled and Edited By

H. M. MORENO - San Luis Obispo, Cal.

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Foreword

At no time in the history of California has the need for a Dictionary of this nature been so imperative. Never before, since the admission of California into the Sisterhood of States, has there been so much genuine historic interest manifested in the quaint names, their significance and derivation, and which, up to this time, have long been the subject of much discussion and conjecture.

In twenty years of experience as a newspaperman in various lands and in different climes, the author has been beset by thousands of inquiries from home and from a distance, as to the proper pronunciation, definition and derivation of California Spanish names. So numerous have been the inquiries, and so great the renewed interest manifested, more especially among visitors, that the time and labor expended in this compilation would seem justifiable.

Since the Panama-Pacific International Exposition has been held in San Francisco, and

now that the Panama-California Exposition is in progress in San Diego, there appears to have been a very marked revival of interest in the early names of California.

Millions of visitors to the Exposition, extending their travel to the southern section of the State, wherein these old Spanish names are more numerous than elsewhere, have left a trail of inquiries in their travels, and a country-wide wreath of smiles at their efforts to pronounce correctly the many curious names.

Frequently, among the visitors, reference was made to the "San Joe-ah-quinn" valley. On a "rubber-neck" wagon in the south, a brilliant Eastern visitor was heard to make a reference to "San Jay-sintoe." Undoubtedly the city of Los Angeles suffered the most, many referring to it as "Los Angle-lees," "Los Angee-lees," "Los An-gay-lays," etc.

Interesting above all, is the subtle manner adopted by the old Mission Padres in naming the towns and cities after Saints, biblical characters, and events leading up to and from the birth, life and crucifixion of the Humble Nazarene, with the object in view of keeping these events ever fresh in the minds of the Neophytes (Indian converts.)

An attempt has been made to spell the Spanish names out in English in such a manner that the reader will be enabled to approach the Spanish pronounciation as nearly accurate as possible. To facilitate this important feature a Spanish alphabet has been incorporated in this work.

All definitions, derivations and names which may be seen in this Dictionary are the same and hold good in whatever State in the Union they have been used as names of cities, etc. This has special reference to all such names in Mexico, Lower California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, all the South American Republics, and wherever else the Spaniards have been instrumental in naming cities, towns, or places.

Everything—much time, money and labor—devoted to this compiliation, has been sacrificed to *Accuracy*. Authorities for this work are the most authentic to be hoped for: Velazquez, the acknowledged Noah Webster of the Spanish language; Gen. Mariano G. Vallejo and Prentiss Maslin in the California Blue Book; United States Postal and Parcel Post Guides; Southern Pacific and Union Pacific Maps; Railroad Blue Book, and Irvine's History of California.

All translations are from the Spanish strictly. No effort has been made to define or classify coined Spanish-American words, combinations, or Indian and Spanish mixtures.

Such words as "Pasadena," "Capitola," "Altadena," and many with the Spanish euphony, *are not* Spanish, but coined to suit the fancy of the founders of such communities.

Great care should be taken in the coinage of Spanish-American combinations, lest the "counterfeiters" be led into the paths of the ridiculous, as in the case of those who are responsible for the christening of a community in one of the southern counties. Undoubtedly, the intent of the sponsors for the new-born community meant to lay particular stress upon the quality of ozone in that section, as the place has been named "Ozena." As this name means in Spanish "fetid ulcers of the nostrils," the author took it upon himself to omit the word and spare the dignity of the community and its residents.

In conclusion, do not be too precipitate with criticism. You may know some Spanish name (supposedly) that does not appear in this book. Be sure that the name is Spanish, and that

it is the name of a city, town, village or hamlet.

If any names have been omitted, it is because they are too remote to be reached even by the rural free deliveries of the State, and are, therefore "not on the map."

IMPORTANT!

By way of postscript, remember the Spanish "a" is always "ah," and is always pronounced like the "a" in the English word "father."

"E" is always pronounced "eh," like the English "e" in "fed."

"H" is always silent in the Spanish language.

"O" is always pronounced "oh," like the "o" in the English word "protect."

Observe these simple suggestions, and the correct pronunciation of Spanish names is greatly simplified.

THE AUTHOR.

San Luis Obispo, Cal., 1916.

SPANISH ALPHABET.

The Spanish alphabet contains twenty-seven letters, exclusive of K and W, which are used only in foreign words. It contains, however, three characters, *ch*, *ll*, and *ñ*, which are regularly regarded as separate letters. *Ch* (tchay) has been considered a separate letter since 1803. *Ll* and *ñ* are called "ligatured consonants," both having a consonant *y* sound after the letter represented. The alphabet is as follows:

A, a (ah).

Always pronounced like *a* in the English words "art" and "father." B, b (bay).

Pronounced as in English, although in some parts of Spain it is confused with V.

C, c (thay).

When followed by *a*, *o*, *u* or any consonant, sounds like *k;* before *e* and *i*, it sounds like *th* in "think."

Ch, ch (tchay).

Pronounced like *ch* in "child."

D, d (day).

Pronounced as in English. At the end of words it sounds somewhat like *th* in "though."

E, e (ay).

Pronounced like the sound of *a* in the word "male."

F, f (ay-fay).

Pronounced as in English.

G, g (hay).

Has two distinct sounds; before *a*, *o*, *u*, or consonant, it sounds like *g* in the English words "girl" and "good"; before *e* and *i*, it sounds like *h* in the English words "high," "hay."

H. h, (ah-tchay).

Is silent in the Spanish language, pronounced as if no such *h* were there.

I, i (e).

Sounds like *e* in the English word "evil."

J, j (hoe-tah).

Is pronounced like *h* in the English words "horse," "hall," "hill." L, l (al-lay).

Pronounced as in English.

Ll, ll (ail-yay).

Similar sound to the English word "William." At the beginning of a word the first *l* is vocalized; the second given with a consonant *y* sound following.

M, m (ai-may).

Pronounced as in English.

N, n (ai-nay).

Pronounced as in English.

N, ñ (ain-yay).

Always pronounced like ni in the English words "pinion," "minion." O, o (o).

Pronounced like the English *o* in the word "organ," and when accented, like the *o* in "old."

P, p (pay).

Pronounced as in English.

Q, q (coo).

Pronounced as the English *k* before *ue* and *ui*, in all other instances it has been replaced by *c*.

R, r (er-ay).

When single is pronounced as in English; at the beginning of a word and when double, it has a strong rolling sound. Nearest possible sound: *rr*—er'-ray. Final *r* has the full rolling sound, almost like double *r* in English.

S, s (ai-say).

Pronounced like the English *s* in the words "say," "simple," "seven." T, t (tay).

Pronounced as in English.

U, u (oo).

Pronounced as the English *u* in the word "pull"; it is silent in the syllables *que*, *qui*, except when it has a diæresis over it, thus *ü*. In the syllables *que*, *qui*, is always silent.

V, v (vay).

Pronounced as in English.

X, x (ay-kiss).

Has the sound of *x* in the English word "flax."

Y, y (e-gree-ai-gah).

Has the sound of *e* in the English word "evil."

Z, z (thay-tah).

Pronounced like *th* in the English word "thin."

Definitions of the Spanish Names of Cities, Towns, Villages and Hamlets of California

A.

Acampo—(Ah-cahm'-poe). Portion of common given to graziers or herds for pasture.

Adelaida—(Ah-deh-lye'-dah). Spanish for Adelaide; feminine proper name.

Agua Caliente—(Ah'-goo-ah Cahl-e-en'-tay). Hot Springs; hot water.

Alameda—(Ah-lah-meh'-dah). A grove of poplar trees; a public walk.

Alamo—(Ah'-lah-mo). Poplar tree.

Albion—(Ahl-be-on'). Ancient Spanish name given to England. For a long time California was known as "Nueva Albion," meaning in Spanish "New England."

Alcatraz—(Ahl-cah-trath'). Pelican; a sea fish caught in India.

Alcalde—(Ahl-cahl'-day). Justice of the Peace; a police judge.

Alhambra—(Ahl-ahm'-bra). Name of a city in old Spain.

Alisal—(Ahl-lee-sahl'). Clump of Alder or Elderberry trees.

Alma—(Ahl'-mah). Soul; spirit; feminine proper name; human being.

Alta—(Ahl'-tah). High ground; elevated; eminence.

Alta Loma—(Ahl'-tah Loe'-mah). Rising ground; hillock; high mountain.

Alturas—(Ahl-toor'-ahs). Heights; loftiness; summits.

Alvarado—(Ahl-vah-rah'-doe). In honor of Juan Bautista Alvarado, one of the last governors of California under Mexican rule.

Alviso—(Ahl-vee'-soe). In honor of Assemblyman Alviso of Alameda, member of a pioneer family among the earliest settlers in California.

Amador—(Ah-mah-dor'). In honor of Sargeant Pedro Amador, pioneer settler and soldier; amador also means a lover; a sweetheart. (See origin of counties.)

Andrade—(Ahn-drah'-day). So named in honor of the Andrade family, which settled in California in the early days.

Aptos—(Ahp'-tohs). The apt; the fit; the competent.

Arabela—(Ah-rah-bell'-ah). Arabella; feminine proper name.

Arena—(Ah-reh'-nah). Sandy locality; sand.

Armada—(Ahr-mah'-dah). The navy; naval fleet; armada.

Aromas—(Ah-roh'-mahs). Aromatic quality; perfume; fragrancy.

Arroyo Grande—(Ah-roy'-o Grahn'-day). Big creek; wide stream.

Atascadero—(Ah-tahs-cah-deh'-roe). A deep miry place, in which horses, carriages, etc., stick fast; obstruction.

Asuncion—(Ah-soon-thee-own'). In honor of the "Feast of the Assumption," a name given by the Padres to commemorate the miraculous ascent to heaven of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Avila—(Ah'-vee-lah). In honor of the founder of the town, Don Juan V. Avila.

B.

Balboa—(Bahl-boe'-ah). In honor of the discoverer of the Pacific Ocean.

Bellota—(Bell-e-o'-tah). Acorn; place where acorns abound.

Bernardo—(Behr-nahr'-doe). Bernard; masculine proper name.
Berrenda—(Behr-rehn'-dah). Field of yellow wheat; reindeer doe.
Berros—(Beh'-rohs). Water cresses.
Blanco—(Blahn'-coh). White; hoary; honored; whitish field.
Boca—(Boh'-cah). Entrance; mouth; hole.
Bodega—(Boh-deh'-gah). Wine vault; abundant vintage.
Bolinas—(Boh-lee'-nahs). Bowlines of a ship; a noise of a scuffle.
Bonita—(Boh-nee'-tah). Pretty; graceful.
Brea—(Bray'-ah). Pitch; tar; asphaltum.

C.

Cajon—(Kah-hone'). Square box; shaped like a box.
Calabasas—(Kah-lah-bah'-sahs). Pumpkins; pumpkin patch.
Caliente—(Kah-lee-n'-tay). Hot; warm; sunny climate.
Camarillo—(Kah-mah-reel'-e-o). In honor of Juan Camarillo, founder.
Camino—(Kah-meen'-oh). Highway; road.
Campo—(Kahm'-poe). Camp; woods; forest.
Campo Seco—(Kahm'-poe Seh'-coe). Dry camp; dry woods; dry forest.
Cantara—(Kahn'-tah-rah). Large, narrow-mouthed pitcher; of that shape.
Carbon—(Kahr-bohn'). Carbon; coal; where coal abounds.
Carlota—(Kahr-loh'-tah). In honor of Queen Charlotte.
Carmel—(Kahr-mehl'). In honor of "Nuestra Senora del Carmen." (The Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.)
Carpinteria—(Kahr-peen-teh-ree'-ah). Carpenter shop; carpentry.

Casa Desierto—(Kah'-sah Deh-see-ehr'-toe). House in the desert.

Casa Verdugo—(Kah'-sah Vehr-doo'-go). House among young verdure; house of the Verdugo family.

Cazadero—(Kah-tha-deh'-roe). Hunting grounds.

Chico—(Chee'-coe). In honor of Mariano Chico, one of the last of California's governors under Mexican rule; the word also signifies anything small or little.

Chiles—(Chee'-less). Peppers, either red or green; chile plantation.

Chino—(Chee'-noe). Curly hair; Chinaman; crispy.

Chula Vista—(Choo'-lah Vees'-tah). Quaint or pretty view; chic.

Cisco—(Thees'-coe). Coal dust; broken coal; coal screenings.

Cima—(Thee'-mah). Uppermost point; summit; on top.

Colma—(Kohl'-mah). A fill-in; filled; heaped.

Concepcion—(Kohn-thep-thee-on'). In honor of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; feminine proper name.

Conejo—(Kohn-eh'-hoe). Rabbit; where rabbits abound.

Constancia—(Kohn-stahn'-thee-ah). Constancy; immutability; Constance, feminine proper name.

Corona—(Koh-roh'-nah). Crown; priest's tonsure; seven-decade rosary of Roman Catholic Church.

Coronado—(Koh-roh-nah'-doe). Crowned; shaped like a crown.

Corral de Tierra—(Koh-rahl' deh Tee-eh'-rah). Sod or soil fence.

Corral de Piedra—(Koh-rahl' deh Pee-eh'-drah). Stone or rock fence.

Corralitos—(Koh-rah-lee'-toes). Small yards or corrals.

Corte Madera—(Cor'-tay Mah-deh'-rah). Timber court; lumber camp.

Coyote—(Koh-yoe'-tay). Common coyote; a jackal.
Crucero—(Krew-thay'-roe). Crossing; Cross Bearer who carries the cross before the archbishops in procession.

D.

Dehesa—(Day-eh'-sah). Arable lands converted to pastures.
Del Mar—(Dehl Mahr). Of the ocean; from the ocean; pertaining thereto.
Del Monte—(Dell Mohn'-tay). Of the forest; from the forest.
Del Rey—(Dell Ray). Of or from the King.
Del Sur—(Dell Soor). Of or from the South.
De Luz—(Deh Looth). Of the light; clarity; lustre.
De Sabla—(Deh Sah'-blah). In honor of the pioneer De Sabla family.
Descanso—(Deh-skahn'-soh). Rest; repose; quiet; a placid bay or port.
Dos Palos—(Dohs Pah'-lohs). Two trees; two sticks; two stumps.
Dos Pueblos—(Dohs Poo-eh'-bloes). Two towns; two cities.
Dos Rios—(Dohs Ree'-ohs). Two rivers.
Duarte—(Doo-ahr'-tay). In honor of the Pioneer Duarte family.
Dulzura—(Dool-thoo'-rah). Sweetness; pleasing manners.

E.

El Cajon—(El Kah-hone'). Shaped like a box; square box.
El Centro—(El Sen'-troh). The center; central part.
El Dorado—(El Doh-rah'-doh). See origin of counties.
Elmira—(El-mee'-rah). Feminine proper name.
El Monte—(El Mohn'-teh). The forest; the woods; the wilds.

El Portal—(El Pohr-tahl'). The portage; entry; door.
El Segundo—(El Seh-goon'-doe). The second (II).
El Toro—(El Toh'-roe). The bull; Taurus.
El Venado—(El Veh-nah'-doe). The deer; the buck.
El Verano—(El Veh-rah'-noe). The Summer.
Encanto—(En-kahn'-toe). Enchantment; charm; fascination.
Encinitos—(En-thee-nee'-toes). Small ever-green oaks.
Escalon—(Es-kah-lone'). Step; scale; step of a stairway.
Escondido—(Es-kohn-dee'-doe). Concealed; hidden nook.
Esmeralda—(Es-meh-rahl'-dah). Emerald; feminine proper name.
Esparto—(Es-pahr'-toe). Spanish broom-grass.
Estrella—(Es-treh'-lee-ah). Star.
Estudillo—(Es-too-deel'-e-o). In honor of the Estudillo family, pioneer settlers in Southern California.

F.

Famoso—(Fah-moh'-soh). Famous; celebrated.
Farallon—(Fah-rah-lee-ohn'). Small, pointed Islands in the sea.
Florin—(Floh-reen'). A silver coin. (Undoubtedly a misnomer, evidently intended to refer to flowers.)
Fontana—(Fohn-tah'-nah). In honor of the pioneer Fontana family; also means fountain; springs.
Fortuna—(For-too'-nah). Fortune; riches; feminine proper name.
Fresno—(Fres'-noe). Ash-tree. (See origin of counties).
Fruto—(Froo'-toe). Productiveness; fruitfulness.

G.

Gaviota—(Gah-vee-o'-tah). A sea gull; where gulls abound.

Gavilan—(Gah-vee-lahn'). Sparrow or chicken hawk.
Goleta—(Goh-leh'-tah). A schooner; a ship.
Gonzales—(Gohn-thal'-less). In honor of the pioneer Gonzales family.
Gorda—(Gohr'-dah). Fat; corpulent; (feminine).
Guadalupe—(Wad-ah-loo'-pay). In honor of "Nuesta Senora de Guadalupe," "Holy Mary, our Lady of Guadalupe," (Mexico).
Graciosa—(Grah-thee-o'-sah). Graceful; (feminine).
Guinda—(Geen'-dah). Cherry; (Cherryland).

H.

Hermosa—(Err-moe'-sah). Beautiful; handsome.
Hernandez—(Err-nahn'-deth). In honor of the early Spanish explorer.
Hilo—(Ee'-loe). Thread.

I.

Ignacio—(Ee-nah'-thee-o). Ignatius; masculine proper name.
Indio—(Een'-dee-o). Indian; bluish coloring.

L.

La Canada—(Lah Kahn-nee-yah'-dah). Small canyon or gulch.
Lagunitas—(Lah-goo-nee'-tahs). Small lakes.
La Honda—(Lah Ohn'-dah). A dam; depths of water.
La Mesa—(Lah Meh'-sah). The table; table-lands.
La Mirada—(Lah Mee-rah'-dah). The view; glance; gaze; viewpoint.
La Panza—(Lah Pahn'-thah). The belly; paunch-like protuberance.
Las Lomas—(Lahs Loh'-mahs). The hills; small mountains.
Las Plumas—(Lahs Plume'-ahs). The feathers; plumes; (see origin of counties).
Laton—(Lah-tohn'). Brass; latten.

Llanada—(Lee-ah-nah'-dah). Tract of level ground; a plain.
Llano—(Lee-ah'-noe). A plain; level ground.
Llano del Rio—(Lee-ah'-noe dell Ree'-o). Tract of level ground in a river-bed where a stream has left or changed its course.
Lolita—(Lo-lee'-tah). Contraction of the feminine and masculine proper name of Dolores, signifying dolor, grief, pain and commemorating the anguish of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Crucifixion.
Loma Linda—(Loh'-mah Leen'-dah). Pretty hill.
Loma Portal—(Loh'-mah Pohr-tahl'). Portage hill; hill near a portal.
Loma Prieta—(Loh'-mah Pree-eh'-tah). Black hill or mountain.
Lomita—(Loh-mee'-tah). Little hill or knoll.
Los Alamitos—(Lohs Ah-lah-mee'-toes). Small poplar grove.
Los Alamos—(Lohs Ah'-lah-moes). Grove of grown poplars.
Los Altos—(Lohs Ahl'-toes). The heights; summits.
Los Angeles—(Lohs An'-hell-less). The Angels. In honor of "Nuestra Senora, La Reina de Los Angeles," (Our Lady, Queen of Angels.) Los Angeles is a contraction of the original name given this city, which was "El Pueblo del Rio de Nuestra Senora, La Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula." (See origin of counties.)
Los Banos—(Lohs Bah'-nee-ohs). The Baths; bathing place; springs.
Los Gatos—(Lohs Gah'-toes). The Cats; where cats abound.
Los Molinos—(Lohs Moh-lee'-noes). The Mills.
Los Nietos—(Lohs Nee-eh'-toes). The Grandchildren; masculine.
Los Olivos—(Lohs Oh-lee'-vohs). The Olive Trees; olive grove.
Lucia—(Loo-thee'-ah). Lucy; feminine proper name.

M.

Madera—(Mah-deh'-rah). Timber; wood. (See origin of counties.)

Malaga—(Mah'-lah-gah). Name of a city in Spain; a wine.

Manzana—(Mahn-tha'-nah). Apple; where apples abound.

Manteca—(Mahn-teh'-cah). Lard; fat.

Manton—(Mahn-tohn'). A large mantle; a shawl similar to the mantilla.

Manzanar—(Mahn-tha-nar'). Apple orchard.

Mariposa—(Mah-ree-poh'-sah). Butterfly. (See origin of counties).

Martinez—(Mahr-tee'-neth). In honor of pioneer Martinez family.

Melones—(Meh-loh'-ness). Melons of any kind.

Mendocino—(Mehn-doe-thee'-noe). In honor of Viceroy Mendosa. (See origin of counties.)

Merced—(Mehr-thed'). In honor of Nuestra Senora de La Merced, (Our Lady of Mercy). (See origin of counties.)

Mesa Grande—(Meh'-sah Grahn'-day). Big Table; extensive table lands.

Milpitas—(Meel-pee'-tahs). Small truck gardens. Dim. of milpas.

Mina—(Mee'-nah). Mine; mineral deposit.

Mineral—(Mee-neh-rahl'). Mineral.

Mira Flores—(Mee'-rah Floe'-ress). Flower-view; overlooking flowers.

Miramar—(Mee'-rah-mahr). Ocean-view; overlooking the sea.

Mira Monte—(Mee'-rah Mohn'-teh). Forest-view; overlooking the wilds.

Modesto—(Moh-dehs'-toe). Modesty; chastity. This name was originally given to the Padres in the feminine, Modesta, to commemorate the Modesty, Chastity and Purity of the Virgin Mary, but usage has caused the masculine to be used almost exclusively. However, it is a masculine as well as a feminine Spanish proper name, and

though the definition is the same in either gender, the feminine is more accurate.

Montalvo—(Mohn-tahl'-voe). In honor of Garcia Ordonez de Montalvo. (See origin of the name of California.)

Monte Bello—(Mohn'-teh Bel'-lee-o). Beautiful forest or woods.

Monterey—(Mohn-teh-ray'). Kingly Forest; King of the Forest.

Montecito—(Mohn-teh-thee'-toe). Small forest; wildwood.

Moreno—(Moh-reh'-noe). Brown; brunette or swarthy male; name of a pioneer family which settled in Monterey.

Morena—(Moh-reh'-nah). A brunette; feminine of Moreno.

Morro—(Moh'-roe). Any high-rounding eminence; shaped like a Castle.

Murrieta—(Moo-ree-eh'-tah). Name of notorious Mexican bandit (Joaquin Murrieta), who with a gang of outlaws, terrorized California in the early fifties.

N.

Nacimiento — (Nah-thee-mee-n'-toe). Nativity; Source; commemorating the Birth of the Saviour.

Naranjo—(Nah-rahn'-hoe). An orange tree.

Navarro—(Nah-vah'-roe). In honor of pioneer family of that name.

Novato—(Noh-vah'-toe). New; innovation; beginning.

Nuevo—(Noo-eh'-voe). New; commencement; just started.

O.

Ora—(Oh'-rah). Now; at present.

Oriental—(Oh-ree-n-tahl'). Oriental; pertaining to the Orient.

Oro Loma—(Oh'-roe Loe'-mah). Gold Hill.

Oro Grande—(Oh'-roe Grahn'-day). Coarse gold; big gold; nuggets.

P.

Pacheco—(Pah-chay'-coe). In honor of the pioneer Pacheco family of which the head, Romualdo Pacheco, was one of California's first governors under American rule.

Pala—(Pah'-lah). Shovel; fire-shovel.

Palo Alto—(Pah'-loe Ahl'-toe). Tall tree; tall stump; tall stick.

Palo Cedro—(Pah'-loe Thay'-droe). Cedar stump; cedar stick; cedar tree.

Palo Verde—(Pah'-loe Vehr'-day). Green stump; green stick.

Pantano—(Pahn-tah'-noe). Lake or reservoir for irrigation purposes; marsh.

Paso Robles—(Pah'-soe Roh'-bless). Pass of the Oaks.

Patata—(Pah-tah'-tah). Potato; where potatoes abound.

Pescadero—(Pehs-cah-day'-roe). Fishing grounds; schools of fish.

Picacho—(Peek-ah'-choe). Small mountain peak.

Pico—(Pee'-coe). In honor of the pioneer Pico family, head of which, Don Pio Pico, was California's last governor under Mexican rule.

Piedra—(Pee-eh'-drah). Rock; stone.

Pinole—(Pee-noe'-lay). A beverage made by Mexicans consisting of ground, baked or toasted corn, sugar, and water or milk.

Planada—(Plah-nah'-dah). Level ground; a plain.

Pleito—(Play'-toe). Litigation; fight; argument; wordy war.

Plumas—(Plume'-ahs). Feathers. (See origin of counties.)

Portola—(Pohr-toe'-lah). In honor of Don Gaspar de Portola, California's first Spanish governor.

Potrero—(Poe-tray'-roe). Place where bronco horses are broken.
Pozo—(Poe'-tho). A well of any kind, water or oil, etc.
Prado—(Prah'-doe). Green meadows, fields, lawns.
Presidio—(Pray-see'-dee-o). Military Post. (See origin of Monterey county.)
Puente—(Poo-n'-tay). Bridge of any kind.
Paraiso—(Pah-rah-ee'-soe). Paradise.
Pulga—(Pool'-gah). Flea.
Punta Gorda—(Poon'-tah Gohr'-dah). Fat Point; big point.

R.

Ramona—(Rah-moh'-nah). Feminine of Raymond (Ramon).
Redondo—(Reh-dohn'-doe). Round; rounding or circular in shape.
Represa—(Reh-preh'-sah). A dam.
Riego—(Ree-eh'-goe). Irrigation.
Rio Bravo—(Ree'-o Brah'-voe). Swollen river; swift of current; wild stream.
Rio Lindo—(Ree'-o Leen'-doe). Pretty river.
Rio Vista—(Ree'-o Vees'-tah). River-view; overlooking a river.
Rivera—(Ree-veh'-rah). Spanish family name; river; stream.
Rodeo—(Roh-day'-o). Round-up of cattle, horses, etc.

S.

Sacate—(Sah-cah'-tay). Hay; grass.
Sacramento—(Sah-crah-mehn'-toe). Sacrament; commemorative of the Lord's Supper.
Salida—(Sah-lee'-dah). Starting point; departure; outlet; projection.
Salinas—(Sah-leen'-ahs). Salt mines; salty locality.
San Andres—(Sahn Ahn-drehs'). St. Andrew.

San Anselmo—(Sahn Ahn-sell'-moe). St. Anselm.
San Benito—(Sahn Beh-nee'-toe). Dim. of St. Benedict.
San Bernardino—(Sahn Behr-nahr-dee'-noe). St. Bernard; St. Bernardinus.
San Bruno—(Sahn Broo'-noe). St. Bruno.
San Carlos—(Sahn Cahr'-loes). St. Charles.
San Clemente—(Sahn Clay-men'-tay). St. Clement.
San Diego—(Sahn Dee-eh'-goe). St. James.
San Dimas—(Sahn Deem'-ahs). St. Dimas.
San Fernando—(Sahn Fehr-nahn'-doe). St. Ferdinand.
San Francisco—(Sahn Frahn-thees'-coe). St. Francis.
San Gabriel—(Sahn Gah-bree-el'). St. Gabriel.
San Geronimo—(Sahn Heh-roe'-nee-moe). St. Jerome; St. Hierome.
San Gregorio—(Sahn Greh-goo'-ree-o). St. Gregory.
San Isidro—(Sahn Ee-see'-droh). St. Isadore.
San Jacinto—(Sahn Hah-theen'-toe). St. Hyacinth.
San Joaquin—(Sahn Who-ah-keen'). St. Joachim.
San Jose—(Sahn Ho-zay'). St. Joseph.
San Juan—(Sahn Whan). St. John.
San Juan Bautista—(Sahn Whan Bah-oo-tees'-tah). St. John the Baptist.
San Juan Capistrano—(Sahn Whan Cah-pees-trah'-noe). St. John of Capistrano, Italy, his birthplace.
San Leandro—(Sahn Lee-ahn'-droe). St. Leander.
San Lorenzo—(Sahn Loh-rehn'-tho). St. Laurence.
San Lucas—(Sahn Loo'-cahs). St. Luke.
San Luis Obispo—(Sahn Loo'-ees Oh-bees'-poe). St. Luis, the Bishop.
San Luis Rey—(Sahn Loo'-ees Ray). St. Luis the King.
San Marcos—(Sahn Mahr'-coes). St. Mark.
San Martin—(Sahn Mahr-teen'). St. Martin.

San Mateo—(Sahn Mah-tay'-o). St. Matthew.
San Miguel—(Sahn Mee-gell'). St. Michael.
San Miguel Arcangel—(Sahn Mee-gell' Ahr-cahn'-hell). St. Michael the Archangel.
San Pablo—(Sahn Pah'-bloe). St. Paul.
San Pedro—(Sahn Pay'-droe). St. Peter.
San Quintin—(Sahn Keen-teen'). St. Quintin.
San Rafael—(Sahn Rah-fah-ell'). St. Raphael.
San Ramon—(Sahn Rah-mone'). St. Raymond.
San Simon—(Sahn See-mone'). St. Simon. (This is now erroneously called and spelled "San Simeon.")
Santa Ana—(Sahn'-tah A'-na). St. Ann.
Santa Anita—(Sahn'-tah Ah-nee'-tah). St. Anita.
Santa Barbara—(Sahn'-tah Bahr'-bahr-ah). St. Barbara.
Santa Clara—(Sahn'-tah Clah'-rah). St. Clara. (See origin of counties.)
Santa Cruz—(Sahn'-tah Crooth). Holy Cross.
Santa Fe—(Sahn'-tah Fay). Holy Faith.
Santa Ines—(Sahn'-tah E-ness'). St. Agnes.
Santa Isabel—(Sahn'-tah E-sah-bell'). St. Elizabeth.
Santa Lucia—(Sahn'-tah Loo-thee'-ah). St. Lucy.
Santa Margarita—(Sahn'-tah Mahr-gah-ree'-tah). St. Margaret.
Santa Maria—(Sahn'-tah Mah-ree'-ah). St. Mary; Holy Mary.
Santa Monica—(Sahn'-tah Moh'-nee-kah). St. Monica.
Santa Paula—(Sahn'-tah Pah'-oo-lah). St. Pauline.
Santa Rosa—(Sahn'-tah Roe'-sah). St. Rose.
Santa Susana—(Sahn'-tah Soo-sah'-nah). St. Susan.
Santos—(Sahn'-tohs). Saints.
Sauzalito—(Sah-oo-thal-ee'-toe). Clump of willows; Dim. of sauzal. (This is now erroneously called and spelled "Saucelito.")

Serena—(Seh-reh'-nah). Serene. Feminine proper name.

Serra—(Se'-rah). In honor of the Rev. Father Junipero Serra, first Franciscan Monk to land in California, and who founded all the Missions in this State, Arizona, and Mexico. Father Serra's remains are buried in the sacristy of the Mission Carmel, Monterey, which was at the time of the death of Father Serra, the seat of government of all the Missions.

Sierra Madre—(See-eh'-rah Mah'-dreh). See origin Sierra county.

Soledad—(Soh-leh-dad'). Solitude. Feminine proper name.

Sonora—(Soh-noh'-rah). Name of State in Mexico; a musical instrument.

T.

Tasajera—(Tah-sah-hay'-rah). Place where jerkey is made. Strings of meat, beef or venison, hung out to dry in the sun.

Tia Juana—(Tee'-ah Wha'-nah). Aunt Jenny; Aunt Jane.

Tierra Bella—(Tee-eh'-rah Bell'-lee-ah). Beautiful land or country.

Tierra Buena—(Tee-eh'-rah Boo-eh'-nah). Good land; good country.

Tiburon—(Tee-boo-rone'). Shark.

Tres Pinos—(Tress Pee'-noes). Three pine trees; three pines.

Topaz—(Toh-path'). The valuable gem of that name.

Trigo—(Tree'-go). Wheat: "Wheatland."

Trinidad—(Tree-nee-dad'). The Holy Trinity; feminine proper name.

Tropico—(Troh'-pee-coe). Tropic; tropical.

U.

Uno—(Oo'-noe). One; first; (I).

V.

Vallejo—(Vah-lee-a'-hoe). In honor of Gen. Mariano Vallejo. (See origin of counties.)
Ventura—(Vehn-too'-rah). Luck; fortune; (see origin of counties).
Verde—(Vehr'-day). Verdure; greenery; vernal.
Vidal—(Vee-dahl'). In honor of a pioneer settler.
Viola—(Vee-o'-lah). Violet; musical instrument; feminine proper name.

Origin of the Name California

The origin of the musical name "California" appears to be but little known even in this State. For many years its derivation has been shrouded in mystery, and though there are many conjectures extant as to the etymology of the word, in recent years the theory of Dr. Edward Everett Hale, an eminent historian who has devoted many years to research in matters Californian, has been generally accepted as the most accurate. Dr. Hale's views upon this most interesting subject will be readily approved by the intelligent reader when compared with the attempts of others to give a plausible account of the derivation of the word.

The following account of the origin of the name "California" will be found on page 26, volume 1, Leigh H. Irvine's *History of California,* an exhaustive work of great value, and of still greater interest. A copy of this splendid work should adorn the shelves of the libraries of every true Californian's home.

Mr. Irvine says:

Professor Josiah Royce of Harvard, Winfield Davis, and other historians, now accept Dr. Edward Everett Hale's conclusion that the name California was derived from an old romance and applied by Cortes to the peninsula he discovered in 1535. Mr. Hale made his investigations in the year 1862, while reading the old romance, "Sergas Esplandian," by Garcia Ordonez de Montalvo, the translator of Amidas. In this connection it is worth while to give some of the statements of the eminent Doctor Hale, for there have been a number of theories as to the origin of the name. He says: "Coming to the reference, in this forgotten romance, to the island of California, very near to the Terrestrial Paradise, I saw at once that here was the origin of the name of the state of California, long sought for by the antiquarians of that state, but long forgotten. For the romance seems to have been published in 1510—the edition of 1521 is now in existence—while our California, even the peninsula of that name, was not discovered by the Spaniards till 1526, and was not named California till 1535."

Soon after his discovery, Mr. Hale invited the American Antiquarian Society to examine the evidence, and in March, 1864, he translated

for the Atlantic Monthly all the parts of the story that relate to the Queen of California (Califia), and in 1873 he published a small volume on the subject, in which he said: "The name California was given by Cortes, who discovered the peninsula in 1535. For the statement that he named it, we have the authority of Herrera. It is proved, I think, that the expedition of Mendoza, in 1532, did not see California; it is certain that they gave it no name. Humboldt saw, in the archives of Mexico, a statement in manuscript that it was discovered in 1526; but for this, there is no other authority. It is certain that the name does not appear till 1535. No etymology of this name has been presented satisfactory to the historians. Venegas, the Jesuit historian of California, writing in 1758, sums up the matter in these words: "The most ancient name is California, used by Bernal Diaz, limited to a single bay. I could wish to gratify the reader by the etymology and true origin of this name; but in none of the various dialects of the natives could the missionaries find the least traces of such a name being given by them to the country, or even to any harbor, bay, or small part of it. Nor can I subscribe to the

etymology of some writers, who suppose the name to be given to it by the Spaniards, on their feeling an unusual heat at their first landing here; that they thence called the country California, compounding the two Latin words calida and fornax, a hot furnace. I believe few will think the adventures could boast of so much literature. Clavigero, in his history of California, after giving this etymology, offers as an alternative the following, as the opinion of the learned Jesuit, D. Guiseppe Compoi: "He believes that the name is composed of the Spanish word cala, which means 'a little cove of the sea,' and the Latin fornix, which means 'the vault of a building.' He thinks these words are thus applied, because, within Cape St. Lucas, there is a little cove of the sea towards the western part of which rises a rock, so worn out that on the upper part of the hollow is seen a vault, as perfect as if made by art. Cortes, therefore, observing this cala, or cove, and this vault, probably called this port California, or cala and fornix—speaking half in Spanish, half in Latin. Clavigero suggests, as an improvement on this somewhat wild etymology, that Cortes may have said Cala for-

nax, 'cove furnace,' speaking as in the Jesuit's suggestion, in two languages."

"Towards the close of this romance of the Sergas Esplandian, the various Christian knights assemble to defend the Emperor of the Greeks and the city of Constantinople against the attacks of the Turks and Infidels. In the romance, the name appears with precisely our spelling, in the following passage:

"Sergas, ch. 157: 'Knows that, on the right hand of the Indies, there is an island called California, very near to the Terrestrial Paradise, which was peopled with black women, without any men among them, because they were accustomed to live after the fashion of Amazons. They were of strong and hardened bodies, of ardent courage, and of great force. The island was the strongest in the world, from its steep rocks and great cliffs. Their arms were all of gold; and so were the caparisons of the wild beasts which they rode, after having tamed them; for in all the island there is no other metal. They lived in caves very well worked out; they had many ships, in which they sailed to other parts to carry on their forays.'"

The name appears in several distinct pass-

ages in the book. Mr. Hale adds: "This romance, as I have said, is believed to have been printed first in 1510. No copies of this edition, however, are extant. But of the edition of 1519 a copy is preserved; and there are copies of successive editions of 1521, 1525, and 1526, in which last year two editions were published—one at Seville and the other at Burgos. All of these are Spanish. It follows, almost certainly, that Cortes and his followers, in 1535, must have been acquainted with the romance; and as they sailed up the west side of Mexico, they supposed they were precisely at the place indicated—'on the right hand of the Indies.' It will be remembered also, that by sailing in the same direction, Columbus, in his letter to the sovereigns, says 'he shall be sailing towards the Terrestrial Paradise.' We need not suppose that Cortes believed the romance more than we do; though we assert that he borrowed a name from it to indicate the peninsula he found 'on the right side of the Indies, near to the Terrestrial Paradise.' * * * In ascribing to the Esplandian the origin of the name California, I know that I furnish no etymology for that word. I have not found the word in any earlier romances.

I will only suggest that the root Calif, the Spanish spelling for the sovereign of the Mussulman power of the time, was in the mind of the author as he invented these Amazon allies of the Infidel power."

It is interesting to note that Senator James D. Phelan, a student of Californiana, has named his beautiful home in Saratoga, in Santa Clara County, "Montalvo," in honor of the author whose book gave California her name.

Derivation and Definition of the Names of the Several Counties of California

(*Report of General Mariano G. Vallejo to the First Legislative Session. From California Blue Book.*)

IN SENATE, April 16, 1850.

To the Senate of the State of California:

The Select Committee, appointed by your honorable body in the latter part of January last, "to report to the Senate the derivation and definition of the names of the several counties of the State," as established by the bill, entitled "An act sub-dividing the State into counties, and establishing the seats of justice therein," would respectfully report:

That at the time of the appointment of the committee, the said bill had passed one branch of the Legislature only, nor did the same receive the approval of the Governor until the 18th day of February last. Upon the same day, however, another bill was introduced into

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

San Diego.—This county (St. James), derives its name from its present chief town, named atfer the harbor, which is only three miles distant therefrom. This excellent harbor was discovered and so named by Sebastian Vizcaino, admiral of the Spanish royal squadron, in the year 1603; and in 1768 His Catholic Majesty, by royal decree, determined upon its exploration and settlement. José Galvez, Royal Commissioner (Visitador General) of New Spain, was consequently intrusted with the undertaking; and for the purpose of successfully carrying it through, two expeditions were fitted out—one by land, the other by water; the latter was carried out in the "San Carlos," "Principe," and "San Jose," commanded by Vicente Villa, two of which vessels having reached their destination respectively on the 11th of April and on the 1st of May, 1769, whilst the fate of the third ("San Jose") still remains unknown. The land expedition was divided into two parts, the first being commanded by Fernando Rivera y Moncada, and the second by Captain Gaspar de Portola, Governor of the Province. The first division reached its destination on the 14th of May of said year 1769,

and there found the two above-mentioned vessels at anchor. On the 1st of July the second division also arrived safely; and on the 16th of the same month and year, the land having been taken possession of with the accustomed formalities in the name of His Catholic Majesty, the establishment of the mission of San Diego was at once started under the direction of the Reverend Father Junipero Serra—this being the first civilized settlement founded in the extensive and beautiful country known as Upper California.

San Diego presents an arid appearance, but it possesses nevertheless, a pleasant and luxurious climate, with a clear, blue sky, enhanced by the sublime view of the Pacific Ocean.

There are no building materials or timber in its vicinity, but its water is of the best that is known in the country. It abounds in copper mines, while it produces the best olives and Indian pears; and although its vineyards have not increased in number, yet the fruit they bear is certainly of the best quality which California yields.

Notwithstanding the departure of many families from San Diego, no part of the country maintains so high a claim for the amiable and

sociable qualities of the fairer portion of its inhabitants. Here, indeed, the grace of person and amiability of disposition of the fair sex have attracted the young men of the north, and caused many of them to be led captive to the altar of Hymen, thus contributing to their moral subjection to the fair Dieguinas in the latter's native place, to whom the writer can not but tender a tribute of admiration and respect.

Los Angeles.—This county derives its name from the city of Los Angeles, which was founded in the latter part of the year 1781, by order of the Viceroy of New Spain, Bailio Frey Antonio Bucareli y Ursua, and is situated on the right bank of the "Porciùncula" river, which copiously waters the highly fertile plains whereon the city stands. Invited by the genial climate, the inhabitants have converted a large portion of this plain into a delightful garden, which is covered with all sorts of native fruit trees, but especially the vine, which is cultivated with care and extraordinary success.

This beautiful and extensive valley, famous for its excellent wines and liquors, contains within its limits the ex-missions of San Juan Capistrano, San Gabriel, and San Fernando,

which, to within the last few years, constituted the best and richest establishments of the kind. In 1882, including the environs, they numbered very nearly half a million head of cattle.

From the reasons above mentioned, as well as from its extent and natural advantages, the county of Los Angeles is destined to become the most populous of any in the south, and doubtless many men of business, both public and mercantile, tired of their avocations, will retire there to enjoy a life of angels.

The white population of the county is from 12,000 to 15,000.

Santa Barbara.—There being a distance of more than five hundred miles between the military posts of San Diego and Monterey, and the missions of San Antonio, San Luis Obispo, San Buenaventura, San Gabriel, and San Juan Capistrano being situated in this intervening space, the Governor deemed it advisable, for the protection of these missions, to establish another post or "presidio" at some suitable point somewhere in their vicinity; with this object in view, and with the requisite troops, and accompanied by the Reverend Presiding Father Junipero Serra, he bent his steps toward these missions, until reaching a valley of delightful

view and rich verdancy, in April, 1782, where the troops were stationed, and the new "presidio" called "Santa Barbara," which is the oldest and principal town of that immediate section of country. Hence the name of the county.

San Luis Obispo.—This county takes its name from its principal town, which is the so-called mission, founded on the 1st of September, 1772, by the Reverend Fathers Junipero Serra and José Cavaller, in the fertile and beautiful hollow named "Bears' Glen," by the troops of Monterey on the same day and year, from having there killed a number of bears, which, being cut up and dried, supplied them with meat for months. There is not in California a settlement that was more willingly and benignly received by the aborigines than the mission of San Luis Obispo; indeed, there was no reason for any other reception on the part of the Indians, since they were generously treated by the whites, and received from them the beneficial effects of their calling and the desirable extermination of dangerous wild beasts.

The following circumstance, which happened during the first months of the foundation of San Luis Obispo, is insignificant in itself, but

the writer can not but dwell upon it for a moment with the most tender feelings of the heart:

As a matter of course, at that period few families had as yet migrated to this country, and the female sex was an oasis in the desert. The writer's father was one of the many who immigrated here in bachelorship, and while sojourning in San Luis Obispo he unexpectedly met with a lady who was in travail, and about to bring a new being into the world; and as there was no one, save her husband to assist her, he acted as holder (*tenedor*). The lady was safely delivered of a girl, whereupon the holder (then a young man) solicited of the parents the hand of their child, and a formal agreement ensued between the parties, conditioned that if at mature age the girl should willingly consent to the union, the ceremony would be duly performed. Time rolled by, and year after year transpired, until the *muchacha* had reached her fourteenth year, when the marriage took place, and the offspring of that union has now the honor to present his readers with this short biographical sketch.

Monterey.—This name is composed of the words *monte* and *rey*, and literally means "king

of forests." The harbor of Monterey was discovered in 1603, by Admiral Sebastian Vizcaino, and so named in honor of Count Monterey, as well as from the neighboring forest of massive pines and other trees.

On being informed of this discovery, the King of Spain, at the instance of the Marquis of Croix, Viceroy of Mexico, and José Galvez, Most Illustrious Royal Commissioner, ordered a second naval expedition to act in concert with a land expedition, with a view to taking possession of the harbor. The latter expedition, commanded by Captain Rivera y Moncada, reached its destination on the 23rd of May; the former, commanded by Captain Juan Perez, on the 31st of May, 1770, when the banner of Spain was unfurled in token of possession.

Monterey has always been the residence of the superior authorities as the capital of Upper California. Since its foundation, fourteen duly appointed Governors of Upper California have discharged the duties of that office, viz.: Fages, Borica, Arrillaga, Arguello 1st, Sola, Arguello 2d, Echeandia, Victoria, Figueroa, Chico, Carrillo, Alvarado, Micheltorena, and Pico.

The forest of Monterey, viewed from the bay, presents the most picturesque appearance im-

aginable. The surrounding hills of the city, crowned with tall pines and clothed in perpetual verdure, excite in the stranger a feeling at once of surprise and sympathy for the place. The native, as well as the foreign residents, are in constant admiration of it—at least such is the feeling of the writer, whenever he has the honor of being there—his native place. On occasions like those, how fondly he recollects all the scenes of his childhood! Those of Monterey, born since the year 1807, to you this sincere sentiment of gratitude is addressed! The city of Monterey contains from 1,500 to 2,000 inhabitants.

In October, 1842, the American colors were hoisted there by Commodore Jones; it is said through pretended mistake—but he lowered them at the end of forty-eight hours. On the 7th of July, 1846, they were again unfolded to the breeze of Monterey by Commodore Sloat, and if the act was then done, also through a convenient mistake, is a question of "quien sabe."

Santa Cruz.—The name of this county signifies "holy cross." The word "cross," mystically speaking, is derived from the gibbet, which the Greeks, Romans, and other nations used to erect in that form, for the purpose of

executing guilty slaves or persons of low condition. After the crucifixion of Christ the cross was sanctified, and has, since that period, been the distinguishing sign of the Christian religion.

The county of Santa Cruz is probably the richest in the State, as regards timber and irrigated soil. The mission of Santa Cruz, from which the county derives its name, was secularized in 1834, and has now a growing population. It is situated at the north of the bay of Monterey, and possesses an anchorage. Three vessels of ordinary size have been launched there.

San Francisco.—The name of this county is famous throughout the Catholic world as being that of the creator of the religious order of Franciscans in Europe and America, in whose name the mission of San Francisco de Asis (Dolores) was established in the year 1776, under the immediate superintendence of the Reverend Father Junipero de Serra. In the same year and in the name of His Catholic Majesty, the harbor of San Francisco was taken possession of, and a fort or a redoubt erected with the same name, which it still retains. The bay is also called San Francisco, and lately it

was given to the town of Yerba Buena, by the municipal authorities of that place, doubtless so as to harmonize the three places (distant one league from another, and forming a triangle), that they may amicably respond to the same name when the astounding activity and rapid growth of one will have united all three into an immense commercial city. In 1836 there were only two houses in San Francisco—one belonging to Captain Richardson, the other to J. P. Leese—and up to 1846 the place had made little progress. In 1848, however, it received so wonderful an impulse from the discovery of the gold mines in the Sierra Nevada, that it can be said San Francisco is an enchanted or magical city, built by spirits such as are spoken of in the Arabian Nights.

The town now contains a fluctuating population of from 20,000 to 40,000 inhabitants, made up in the short space of two years. The bay is large enough to accommodate the naval and commercial fleets of the world; there are now on its broad, magnificent bosom, five hundred vessels, and more than two thousand other craft, steamboats, scows, etc., actually engaged in all the ramifications of trade. San Francisco possesses theaters and good substantial

name), resolved upon the less profane name of "Contra Costa." The following is the history of "Mount Diablo" (Mount Devil): In 1806 a military expedition from San Francisco marched against the tribe "Bolgones," who were encamped at the foot of the mount; the Indians were prepared to receive the expedition, and a hot engagement ensued in the large hollow fronting the western side of the mount. As the victory was about to be decided in favor of the Indians, an unknown personage, decorated with the most extraordinary plumage, and making divers movements, suddenly appeared near the combatants. The Indians were victorious, and the incognito (Puy) departed toward the mount. The defeated soldiers, on ascertaining that the spirit went through the same ceremony daily and at all hours, named the mount "Diablo," in allusion to its mysterious inhabitant, that continued thus to make his strange appearance, until the tribe was subdued by the troops in command of Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga, in a second campaign of the same year. In the aboriginal tongue "Puy" signifies "evil spirit"; in Spanish it means "diablo," and doubtless it signifies "devil" in the Anglo-American language.

Marin.—This is the name of the great chief of the tribe Licatiut, and the other tribes that inhabited this county and that of Sonoma. In Spanish "Licatiut" signifies "Arauzon," a favorite root or vegetable of these Indians, of which they made plentiful supplies to be used on great festival occasions. It affords them nourishment in great abundance in the valley of "Petaluma," their usual encampment. In the year 1815 or 1816 a military expedition proceeded to explore the country north of the bay of San Francisco, and on returning by the Petaluma Valley an engagement ensued with Marin, in which he was made prisoner and conducted to the station at San Francisco, from which he escaped, and again reaching Petaluma, he united his scattered forces, and thenceforward dedicated his most strenuous efforts to harass the troops in their hostile incursions into that part of the country. He carried on hostilities until he was so closely pursued as to be compelled to take refuge in the Marin isles, situate at the mouth of the inlet San Rafael, so named from this circumstance. He there defended himself for some time, but was again taken captive to San Francisco in 1824; whence

being set at liberty, he retired to the mission of San Rafael, and there died in 1834.

Sonoma.—The name of this county is an Indian word, signifying "Valley of the Moon," by which the aborigines designated the valley wherein the town of that name is situated.

The tribe occupying this valley was called Chocuyen; but in 1824, on the arrival there of the first expedition for the purpose of establishing a mission, the name of "Sonoma" having been given to their chief by the paternal minister, Jose Altimira, the Chocuyenes then adopted the same, which they still retain. This, as well as the other tribes who occupied the tract which now composes the counties of Sonoma and Marin, were dependent on a great chief who bore the heathen name of Marin de Licatiut, as mentioned in the history of the county of that name.

Sonoma is the most beautiful and picturesque valley of Upper California; and from its topographical situation, fronting the bay of San Pablo, from its delightful climate, fertile soil, abundant timber of all kinds close by, and from its pure and sweet waters, it is destined very soon to become one of the most populous parts of that valuable section of country. There

are hot springs in its vicinity, which, from their medicinal virtues, may in future rival those of Arkansas.

Sonoma is at present the residence of the commander-in-chief of the western division of the army in California and Oregon.

In the Pueblo de Sonoma, in fine, there occurred an incident which will render the town celebrated in the history of the country, to wit: On the 14th day of June (of perpetual memory) a certain personage ordered a certain flag to be there hoisted, on whose white surface was conspicuously to be seen a certain animal; after other certain personages had taken the place by surprise, they took a certain personage prisoner to a certain fort, on the eastern bank of a certain river, in which they locked him for two months; during which he was overtaken by a certain disease which prevails there yearly, and from which he was set at liberty very nearly on the point or on the eve of settling accounts with a third personage, whose emblematic figure throughout the world is that of a skeleton armed with a scythe in his right hand.

Solano.—This is the second name of the celebrated missionary Francisco Solano, and was also borne by the great chief of the tribes origi-

nally denominated "Suisunes," and scattered over the western side of the river Jesus Maria (now Sacramento). The residence of this chief was the valley of Suisun, which is bounded by the hill near Suscol. Before receiving the baptismal name of Solano, the chief was called "Sem-yeto," which signifies the "brave or fierce hand."

In 1817 a military expedition (under command of Lieutenant Jose Sanchez, and by order of the commandant of San Francisco, José Arguello) crossed the Straits of Carquinez (on rafts made of rushes, as there were no ferries or regular boats in those days), for the double purpose of exploring the country and reducing it to Christianity. On crossing the river they were attacked by the Suisun tribe, then headed by their chief, Malaca, who caused them considerable loss; the Indians fought bravely and to the utmost extreme, but they were in turn attacked with such force and perseverance as to oblige them to retreat to their rancheria; where, being still hotly pursued and believing their fate sealed, these unfortunate people, incited by their chief, set fire to their own rush-built huts and perished in the flames with their families. The soldiers endeavored to stay their

desperate resolution, in order to save the women and children; but even these preferred this doom to that which awaited them from the hands of their enemies. Thus perished this chief, and thus was his hearth and the home of his people destroyed.

The town of Benicia, situate in this county, is rapidly increasing in size and importance, and will soon rival the other towns that encircle the bay of San Francisco. The American squadron is stationed here, and many trading vessels lie at anchor. Here is the only passage to the interior; consequently there is, perhaps, no point from which the active trade of the bay can be better observed. There is in front of the town a bank or promontory extending out one mile, which precludes the necessity of wharves.

Yolo.—A corruption of the Indian word "Yoloy," signifying a place abounding with rushes (*tular*), with which the Indians composed the term "Toloytoy," Rushtown (Pueblo del Tule), situated on the western shore of the river Sacramento. The tribe occupying this pueblo derived its name therefrom, and were the subjects of a great chief, who also ruled various other tribes with absolute sway. All

these tribes were encamped on the western banks of the Sacramento and its tributaries. The Christian name of the chief was F. Solano, and his usual residence Sonoma. In 1835, Motti, captain of the Yoloy tribe, rebelled against the superior chief, and being unsuccessfully pursued, Solano applied to the commandant of Sonoma for assistance, pursued the tribe once more, and reduced it to submission. The rebellious leader was ordered to Sonoma, where he remained until the tribe and chief returned to their former hearths in 1846.

Napa.—The name of the tribe who occupied the valley of the same name. The meaning of the name is not ascertained. Napa Valley is fertile and beautiful in the extreme, possesses a very mild climate, and abounds throughout with timber of all kinds. The county, at the extreme north, contains the highlands of Mayacmas, famous as being the encampment of the Napa tribe, one of the bravest in California. They greatly harassed the frontier posts, and were very numerous up to the year 1838, when they were mostly carried off by smallpox. Napa City, situated on the stream that crosses the valley, will soon be a flourishing town; it is fifteen miles distant from the entrance of Napa

Bay. The creation of this county is attributable to the constant efforts of Captain J. Brackett, member of the Assembly from the district of Sonoma. The writer is impressed with the belief that the subdivision is premature and will affect the interests of the people.

Mendocino.—In the year 1535 Antonio de Mendoza, first Viceroy of New Spain, appointed by the the Emperor, arrived at the City of Mexico, fourteen years after its conquest or surrender, and ordered a survey of the coast of California, wherein Cape Mendocino was discovered, and so called in honor of the Viceroy. Mendocino, from which the county derives its name, is the patronymic of Mendoza.

Sacramento.—Signifies Sacrament, or Lord's Supper. The streams known as Feather and Sacramento rivers were first respectively named by Captain Moraga "Sacramento" and "Jesus Maria"; but the latter now assumes the name of Sacramento, whilst the former is called Feather. Sacramento is the principal river in all that section of country, and gives name to the county. Several towns are springing up, but the chief one of the county is Sacramento City, situated on the eastern bank of the Sacramento. This rapidly growing and flourishing

town, containing a permanent population of 12,000 inhabitants, has sprung up in the short space of a year. It contains, besides, multitudes of transient residents, constantly going to and from the "placeres." Steamboats and numerous vessels of light and heavy draught are safely moored immediately abreast of the town.

El Dorado.—The far-famed fabulous region of genial clime and never-fading verdure, where gold and precious stones are as common as rocks and pebbles, where wines gently flow from fountains, where wheat spontaneously grows overtopped with tiny loaves of bread, and pigeons fly about already roasted, where nature has converted the rudest things into harmony of shape and appearance, and where, in fine, a creature of the genus mulier, full of sympathy and grace, trips about in natural loveliness, the most beautiful of God's creations. Francis Orellana, a companion of Pizarro, first spread the account of the supposed existence of this province in South America.

As it is universally known how and when the discovery was made that has caused the star of the west to spring up as if by magic, given it the appropriate epithet of "golden," and will eventually revolutionize the world, more than

the passing remark that gold was first discovered in this county at Sutter's mill, is here deemed unnecessary. The county derives its name from this circumstance.

Sutter.—This county is named after Captain John Augustus Sutter, from Switzerland, and formerly a military officer under Charles X. He immigrated to this country in the latter part of the year 1839, for the purpose of forming a colony. With this object in view, he petitioned the Mexican government for a grant of land, which he obtained, subject to the regulations prescribed by law. He then fixed the site of the colony on the eastern side of the Sacramento River, between its tributaries, known as the American Fork and Cosumnes, and named it New Helvetia. To inspire confidence in his colonists, as well as to protect them against the sudden attacks of the aborigines, who were very numerous at that period, or against any surprise whatsoever from any other power, he built a fort and manned it with several pieces of artillery. The building is well known as Sutter's Fort. Captain Sutter is the oldest settler in the valley of the rushes (valle de los tulares), on the banks of the Sacramento. His known enterprise, openness, and urbanity of

manners, and characteristic hospitality toward all who approached his colony, have commanded public respect and gained for him the personal regard of friends. The former and present inhabitants of California, ever remembering the name of Sutter, as now borne by the county, will transmit it to future generations and thus immortalize it.

Yuba.—A corruption of the word *uba,* which when pronounced in English, produces the sound Yuba. This pronunciation has been latterly so generally adopted that the original word is now obsolete.

Yuba River is the chief tributary of Feather River, and was called Uba by an exploring expedition in 1824, from the immense quantities of vines that shaded its banks and the neighborhood, overloaded with wild grapes (properly called "uvas silvestres" in Spanish). The county, which derives its name from the aforesaid river, was created by the present Legislature, in compliance with the wishes of the delegates from that portion of the State. It contains 10,000 inhabitants.

Butte.—This is purely a French word, signifying hill or mound of earth. The high hills or peaks situated in the valley of the Sacra-

mento, and seen at a great distance, were so named by a detachment of hunters, headed by Michel La Frambeau, from the Hudson Bay Company at Columbia River, who visited this country in search of beaver in the year 1829. Nine years previous to this period they were denominated peaks (*picachos*) by Captain Luis A. Arguello, who headed an expedition to the Columbia River by order of the governor of the province. This county contains these peaks, and takes their name.

Colusa.—Is purely an Indian word, being the original name of a numerous tribe on the western side of the Sacramento River; its meaning is not ascertained. The so-called county is one of the new counties created by the first Legislature of the State.

Shasta.—Is the name of the tribe residing at the foot of the height or mountain, remarkable as being considerably higher than the range, and encircling the source of the Sacramento River. Upon the subdivision of the State into counties Mr. Walthall, member of the Assembly of the delegation from the district of Sacramento, proposed this name for the county, and it was adopted by the Legislature. The mountain has likewise been so named.

Trinidad.—Signifies trinity. The Roman Catholics annually celebrate a certain Sunday in honor of the Most Holy Trinity. This festival has been observed since the year 1260, when it was so regulated by the Council of Arlez.

Trinity Bay was so called from having been discovered on the anniversary of this festival, June 11, 1775, by the second naval exploring expedition, consisting of a frigate in command of Captain Bruno Ezeta, and a sloop commanded by Juan de la Quadra y Bodega. Hence the name of the county. The bay has been newly surveyed and found accessible. Since last January, rich gold "placeres" have been discovered there; and the surrounding fertile country, formerly known as New Albion, is now being settled.

Calaveras.—This word signifies skulls, and the so-called creek, which gives name to the county, derives its own name from the fact of an immense number of skulls having been found lying in its vicinity from time immemorial. According to the diary of Captain Moraga, who headed the first incursions made on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, and the Sierra Nevada, the chiefs of the tribes encamped on these rivers made war against the tribes of the Sierra, who

came down to fish for salmon, with which those rivers abound. This was considered a trespass on rights acquired by occupation, and war was in consequence declared between the tribes of the valley and those of the Sierra, during which a sanguinary battle was fought near the creek Calaveras. The tribes of the valley were victorious, and more than three thousand killed on both sides remained on the field. Hence the name of the creek as given by Captain Moraga.

This is one of the counties abounding in gold mines, and has a population of about 15,000.

San Joaquin.—The meaning of this name has a very ancient origin in reference to the parentage of Mary, the mother of Christ. According to divine revelations, Joachim signifies "preparation of the Lord," and hence the belief that Joaquin, who in the course of time was admitted into the pale of sanctity, was the father of Mary. In 1813, commanding an exploring expedition to the valley of the rushes (valle de los tulares), Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga gave the appellation of San Joaquin to a rivulet which springs from the Sierra Nevada and empties into Lake Buena Vista. The river San Joaquin derives its name from the rivulet, and baptizes the county with the same.

Stockton (named in honor of Commodore Stockton) is a highly flourishing town and the seat of justice in the county. It contains about 2,500 inhabitants. Pleasantly situated on a slough of the San Joaquin River, on a plain, thinly overspread with oak and shrubbery, and within a day or two from some of the rich "placeres," it is destined to become the city of the San Joaquin, notwithstanding the absolute lack of poetry in its name.

Tuolumne.—A corruption of the Indian word "talmalamne," which signifies cluster of stone wigwams. The county abounds in gold "placeres." Throughout its rivers and hollows, throughout its valley and hills, gold, gold, and more gold is found.

Mr. Benjamin S. Lippincott, Senator from the district of San Joaquin, hailing from perhaps the richest county in the State in the precious metal, has exerted an influence in its creation. The county seems to be an integral portion of the "El Dorado," which has been for years so eagerly sought for by every lover of gold. Tuolumne City is just springing up, and it is believed will shortly be a sort of "Jauja," the golden city of the fabulous region where

rivers of milk and of honey flowed, and farinaceous fruits grew spontaneously.

Mariposa.—The name of this county signifies butterfly. In the month of June, 1807—in one of their yearly excursions to the valley of the rushes (valle de los tulares) with a view to hunt elks—a party of Californians pitched their tents on a stream at the foot of the Sierra Nevada, and whilst there, myriads of butterflies, of the most gorgeous and variegated colors, clustered on the surrounding trees, and attracted their attention, from which circumstance they gave the stream the appellation of Mariposa. Hence Mariposa River, from which the country (also heavily laden with the precious metal) derives its poetical name.

Origin and Meaning of the Names of the Counties of California

(By Prentiss Maslin. California Blue Book.)

Alameda County.—Created March 25, 1853. The Spanish word "Alameda" means "a public walk or promenade in the shade of trees." Literally, it comes from *Alamo,* the poplar or cottonwood tree, and it is from the derived meaning of the word, "a public walk," that this county obtained its name.

Alpine County.—Created March 16, 1864. This county derived its name from the English word "Alpine," meaning, "of, pertaining to, or connected with, the Alps." Its geographical position, lying as it does on the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, made it particularly an alpine county, and hence its name.

Amador County.—Created May 11, 1854. The meaning of this word in Spanish is "lover of inanimate objects." This county most probably derived its name from either Sergeant Pedro Amador or from José Maria Amador,

his son. Sergeant Pedro Amador was one of the prominent settlers of California. He was an adventurer and a soldier in the Spanish army, coming to California in 1771 and after serving in San Diego and Santa Barbara was transferred to San Francisco, and died in San José April 10, 1824, at the age of 82 years. His son, José Maria, was born in San Francisco on December 18, 1794, and was also a soldier and a renowned Indian fighter. He obtained a large grant from the Mexican government, and after the discovery of gold forsook pastoral pursuits and went to the Southern mines, where he greatly increased his fortune. He was living as late as 1883.

Butte County.—Created February 18, 1850. This is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California, and derived its name from that wonderful topographical formation, now known as the Marysville or Sutter Buttes, which lie in Sutter County and which were named by Michel La Frambeau of the Hudson Bay Company, who visited the northern part of California as a voyageur and trapper in the year 1829. The word "butte" is purely a French word, and signifies "a small hill or mound of earth detached from any mountain range."

Calaveras County.—Created February 18, 1850. One of the original twenty-seven counties of California. The meaning of "Calaveras" is "skulls," and the county derived its name from Calaveras Creek, which was so named by Captain Moraga of the Mexican army, who headed the first exploring expedition of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and into the Sierra Nevada Mountains, from the fact that he found a large number of skulls lying along the banks of the creek. According to the diary of Captain Moraga, the history of this abundance of skulls is that the tribes who lived on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers made a desperate war against the tribes of the Sierra, who annually came down to fish for salmon in these rivers. This was considered in the light of a trespass, inasmuch as the Sierra tribes refused to allow the valley tribes to go into the mountains to hunt deer and gather acorns. In a most sanguinary battle fought near this creek, the tribes of the valley were victorious, and more than three thousand Indians were killed. Hence, the name of the creek, from which the county subsequently derived its name.

Colusa County.—Created February 18, 1850. This is one of the original twenty-seven coun-

ties of the State of California. The name of this county in the original act of 1850 was spelled "Colusi," and ofttimes in newspapers was spelled "Coluse," and was the name of an Indian tribe living on the west side of the Sacramento River. The meaning of the word "Colusa" has never been determined.

ED. NOTE.—Hon. John P. Irish, former Naval Officer at San Francisco, writes as follows regarding the name of this county:

"Reading the derivation of the names of California counties, written by Mr. Prentiss Maslin, I note that he finds no meaning or translation of the Indian word 'Colusa,' the title of the tribe from which the county was named. The late General Will Green, who went there while the tribe was still a strong body and associated with them so much as to acquire a knowledge and quite free use of their language, told me that the word 'Colusa' means 'scratcher.' When a member of the tribe married, it was the privilege of the bride to begin the honeymoon by scratching her husband's face. The young women so uniformly availed themselves of this privilege that a newly married man was always known by the deep scratches upon his face inflicted by his wife. From this tribal custom the

tribe was known as Colusa or the scratchers. General Green was always so correct in the knowledge he acquired and imparted as to such matters that I am very certain this is the exact and correct meaning of the word 'Colusa.'"

Contra Costa County.—Created February 18, 1850. One of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. This county originally included what is now known as Alameda County, and because of its relationship to San Francisco County, on the west side of San Francisco Bay, it was called Contra Costa, or "opposite coast," lying as it does on the opposite coast or eastern shore of San Francisco Bay.

Del Norte County.—Created March 2, 1857. The name of this county signifies "the north," and the county being situated in the extreme north (west) corner of the State of California, derived its name from its geographical position.

El Dorado County.—Created February 18, 1850. This is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. Francis Orellana, a companion of the adventurer Pizarro, wrote a fictitious account of a wonderful province in South America, of a fabulous re-

gion of genial clime and never-fading verdure, abounding in gold and precious stones, where wine gushed forth from never-ceasing springs, and wheat fields grew ready-baked loaves of bread, and birds already roasted flew among the trees, and nature was filled with harmony and sweetness. From this description, a gold-bearing belt was called El Dorado, as in later days it has been called Klondike. So when the discovery of gold by James W. Marshall at Coloma in January, 1848, became known to the world, California, and particularly that part where gold was discovered, was called "El Dorado," and it was from this fact that the county was given its name upon its creation.

Fresno County.—Created April 19, 1856. The word "Fresno" in Spanish signifies "ash tree," and it was because of the abundance of mountain ash in the mountains of this county that it received its name.

Glenn County.—Created March 11, 1891. This county was created out of the northern portion of Colusa County, and derived its name from Dr. Hugh J. Glenn, who, during his lifetime, was the largest wheat farmer in the State, and a man of great prominence in political and commercial life in California.

Humboldt County.—Created May 12, 1853. This county derived its name from Humboldt Bay which was named for Baron Alexander von Humboldt, the eminent scientist, by Captain Ottinger of the ship "Laura Virginia."

Imperial County.—Created August 15, 1907. It derived its name from the Imperial Valley, situated therein.

Inyo County.—Created March 22, 1866. This county derived its name from a tribe of Indians who inhabited that part of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The meaning of this word has never been determined.

Kern County.—Created April 2, 1866. This county derived its name from the Kern River, which was named for the lieutenant by that name of General John C. Fremont's third expedition in 1845-47.

Kings County.—Created March 22, 1893. This county was created out of the western part of Tulare County, and derived its name from Kings River, which, according to history and tradition, was discovered in 1805 by an exploring expedition and named Rio de los Santos Reyes (the "river of the holy kings"), from which it obtained its present name.

Lake County.—Created May 20, 1861. This county derived its name because of the many charming lakes that are within its boundaries.

Lassen County.—Created April 1, 1864. The name of this county was derived from Mount Lassen, which was named for Peter Lassen, a native of Switzerland, one of General Fremont's guides and a famous trapper, frontiersman, and Indian fighter, who was killed by the Piutes at the base of this mountain in 1859.

Los Angeles County.—Created February 18, 1850. This county was one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. The words "Los Angeles" literally mean "the angels," and are a contraction of the original name "Pueblo del Rio de Nuetra Señora La Reina de Los Angeles de Porciùncula" (the town of the river of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels). It will therefore be observed that Los Angeles was really named for the Virgin Mary, commonly called "Our Lady of the Angels" by the Spanish. On September 7, 1781, Governor Felipe de Neve issued orders from the San Gabriel Mission for the establishment of a pueblo on El Rio Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles and under the protection of Nuestra Señora La Reina de Los Angeles (Our Lady, Queen of the

Angels), the mission by this name having been dedicated three days before, having practically the same title. This pueblo in time became known as the Ciudad de Los Angeles, "the City of the Angels," and it is from this that the county derived its patronymic.

Madera County.—Created March 11, 1893. "Madera" in Spanish signifies "timber," and the county derived its name from the town of Madera, situated within its limits, which town was originally surrounded by groves of trees.

Marin County.—Created February 18, 1850. This county is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California, and derived its name from Chief Marin, of the Licatiut tribe of Indians, who inhabited that section of California. In 1815, a military expedition of the Spanish proceeded to explore the country north of the bay of San Francisco. This action aroused the ire of the Licatiut tribe, and a desperate engagement was fought in the valley now known as the Petaluma Valley. Chief Marin led the forces of the Indians with wonderful strategy and bravery that called forth the admiration of his enemies. At the same time, his sub-chief Quentin gave battle to a second division of the Spanish army at the point which still bears his

name, Punta de la Quentin. Chief Marin afterwards was christianized and baptized under the name of "Marinero," "the Mariner," by the padres, because of the fact of his intimate knowledge of the bay of San Francisco, on which he often acted as ferryman for the whites.

Mariposa County.—Created February 18, 1850. One of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. This county took its name from the Mariposa River. The meaning of "Mariposa" in the language of the Spanish is "butterfly." There is some doubt as to how this stream derived its name. According to one story, in June, 1807, a party of Californians from the San Joaquin Valley made one of their annual excursions into the Sierra Nevada Mountains for the purpose of hunting elk. Camping upon the banks of a river, they were charmed and delighted with the butterflies of most gorgeous and variegated colors that hovered around them in countless numbers, and because of this they gave to the stream the name "Mariposa." Another beautiful story, and probably more authentic, is that the first explorers in the mountains of that region beheld for the first time a beautiful lily growing everywhere, gay-colored, spotted, and in some re-

spects resembling the wings of a butterfly. In their admiration, they gave to this dainty flower, the Calochortus, the name of Mariposa (butterfly) lily.

Mendocino County.—Created February 18, 1850. One of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. This county derived its name from Cape Mendocino, which was discovered and named by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542, and named for Don Antonio de Mendoza, the first Viceroy of New Spain, or Mexico, appointed by the King of Spain in 1535.

Merced County.—Created April 19, 1855. This county derived its name from the Merced River, which was originally named by the Spanish "Rio de Nuestra Señora de la Merced," meaning "the river of Our Lady of Mercy."

Modoc County.—Created February 17, 1874. This county derived its name from a fierce tribe of Indians by that name, which means "the head of the river," and who lived at the headwaters of the Pitt River.

NOTE—Gen. O. O. Howard, in an article in the St. Nicholas magazine for May, 1908, page 624, states that the Indian name of the tribe of

which the name Modoc is a corruption is "Maklaks," and means "The People."

Mono County.—Created April 24, 1861. The name of this county is a Spanish word meaning "monkey," and was applied to an Indian tribe living in that section of the State.

Monterey County.—Created February 18, 1850. This county is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. It derived its name from the bay of Monterey. The word itself is composed of the Spanish words "monte" and "rey," and literally means "king of the forest." The bay was discovered by Sebastian Vizcaino in 1603, and named in honor of his friend and patron, Gaspar de Zuñiga, Count of Monterey and Viceroy of Mexico.

Napa County.—Created February 18, 1850. One of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. The word "Napa" means, in the language of a large and powerful tribe of Indians that lived in that section of California, "fish," because of the myriads of fish that inhabited the Napa River and other creeks of this section. This tribe of Indians were nearly exterminated by smallpox in 1838, and now the only evidence of their ever having existed is the name given to this county.

Nevada County.—Created April 25, 1851. The word "Nevada" in Spanish means "snowy." The county derived its name from the fact of the perpetual snow-capped mountains within its boundaries.

Orange County.—Created March 11, 1889. This county was given its name by the Legislature because of the orange groves for which it is justly famous.

Placer County.—Created April 25, 1851, "Placer" is probably a contraction of the words "plaza de oro," the place of gold, and means in Spanish "a place near a river where gold is found." The county derived its name from the numerous places therein where that method of extracting the gold from the earth, called placer mining, was practiced.

Plumas County.—Created March 18, 1854. The Spanish originally called one of the tributaries of the Sacramento River, Rio de las Plumas, or the "River of the Feathers." The Americans subsequently robbed this river of its beautiful name, by changing its euphonious Spanish title to the English equivalent, the Feather River, but the Legislature, in creating this county, gave thereto the name of "Plumas," because of the fact that all of the numerous

branches of the Feather River have their origin in the mountains of this county.

Riverside County.—Created March 11, 1893. This county was created from San Diego and San Bernardino counties, and derived its name from the town of Riverside.

Sacramento County.—Created February 18, 1850. This county is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. "Sacramento" signifies "Sacrament, or Lord's Supper." Captain Moraga first gave the name "Jesus Maria" (Jesus Mary) to the main river, and the name "Sacramento" to a branch thereof. Later, the main river became known as the Sacramento, while the branch became known as El Rio de las Plumas, or Feather River.

San Benito County.—Created February 12, 1874. Crespi in his expedition in 1772 named a small river in honor of San Benedicto (Saint Benedict, "the Blessed"), the patron saint of the married, and it is from the contraction of the name of this beloved saint that this county took its name.

San Bernardino County.—Created April 26, 1853. Saint Bernard is the patron saint of mountain passes. The name "Bernardino"

means "bold as a bear." The Spanish gave to the snow-capped peak in Southern California the name of San Bernardino in honor of the saint, and from this the county derived its name.

San Diego County.—Created February 18, 1850. One of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. On November 12, 1603, the day of San Diego de Alcala (Saint James of Alcala), Sebastian Vizcaino anchored his fleet in the bay of San Diego, and named the same in honor of the day, as well as in honor of his flagship, which name has since been retained, although Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo named this bay San Miguel on September 28, 1542, sixty-one years previous; and it is from this bay that the county derived its name.

San Francisco County.—Created February 18, 1850. This county is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. The sixth mission in California was established by Padre Junipero Serra October 9, 1776, and was named "Mission San Francisco de Asis à la Laguna de los Dolores." (Saint Francis of Assisi at the Lagoon of Sorrows), and to this mission San Francisco owes its name.

San Joaquin County.—Created February 18, 1850. This is one of the original twenty-seven

counties of the State of California. The meaning of the name of this county has a very ancient origin and refers to the parentage of Mary, the mother of Christ. According to tradition, Joachim signifies "whom Jehovah hath appointed," and hence the belief that Joaquin, the Spanish spelling for Joachim, was the father of Mary. In 1813, Lieutenant Moraga, commanding an expedition in the lower great central valley of California, gave to a small rivulet, which springs from the Sierra Nevada Mountains and empties into Buena Vista Lake, the name of San Joaquin, and it is from this that the present river derived its name, which in turn baptized the county with the same.

San Luis Obispo County.—Created February 18, 1850. One of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. On September 1, 1772, the Mission San Luis Obispo (Saint Louis the Bishop) was established and was named for Saint Louis, the Bishop of Toulouse. He was the son of Charles of Anjou, King of Naples, and the county derived its name from this mission, founded by the padres, Junipero Serra and José Cavaller.

San Mateo County.—Created April 19, 1856.

This county bears the Spanish name of Saint Matthew, "the gift of Jehovah."

Santa Barbara County.—Created February 18, 1850. This county is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. Saint Barbara is the patron saint of the sailors, and gives them special protection from deadly lightning and fires at sea. For this reason her name is frequently seen over the powder magazines on board of war vessels. Santa Barbara received this name from Sebastian Vizcaino, when he sailed over these waters on that Saint's Day, December 4, 1603; and when Padre Junipero Serra established a mission near this channel on December 4, 1786, he named it Santa Barbara, Virgen y Martir (Saint Barbara, Virgin and Martyr). It is from these two sources that the county derived its name.

Santa Clara County.—Created February 18, 1850. One of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. On January 12, 1777, Mission Santa Clara was established, and named for Saint Clara of Assisi, Italy, the first Franciscan nun and founder of the Order of Saint Clara. Her name "Clara" means "clear" or "bright," and according to the Roman Book

of Martyrs, as Hortalana, the pious mother of this nun, was once kneeling before a crucifix, praying, that she might be happily delivered of her unborn babe, she heard a voice whispering, "Fear not, woman, thou wilt safely bring forth"; whereupon a brilliant light suddenly illumined the place, and the mother, inspired by the mysterious prediction, baptized her child Clara, which is the feminine of the word meaning clear or bright. Clara was afterwards sanctified on account of her many eminent virtues, and accordingly venerated by the Catholics in all Roman Catholic churches, and canonized under the name Saint Clara.

Santa Cruz County.—Created February 18, 1850. This is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. "Santa" is the Spanish feminine of "Saint" or "holy"; "Cruz" is the Spanish for "cross," and "Santa Cruz" signifies "holy cross," which emblem was to the devout explorers of California what it was to the Crusaders. Those who fell by the wayside had a rude cross erected over them to mark their last resting-place; if anything notable occurred in any of the expeditions, a cross was set up, and all that marked the site of the mission which was founded by Padres Lopez

and Salazar on September 25, 1791, was the memorial cross erected to mark this site. From this the county derived its name.

Shasta County.—Created February 18, 1850. This county is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. The derivation of the name of the county, which was taken from the butte of that name, is in doubt. Some authorities claim the name "Shasta" to be derived from Shas-ti-ka, the name of a tribe of Indians that lived at the base of this mountain. The word "Shas-ti-ka" means "stone house or cave dwellers." Other authorities claim that the word "Shasta" is a corruption of the French word "chaste," and was first applied by explorers because of the wonderful whiteness or chastity of the eternal snow that caps the summit of this wonderful peak.

Sierra County.—Created April 16, 1852. "Sierra" is the Spanish word for "saw," and was applied to the chain of mountains, Sierra Nevada, meaning "snow saw," because of the jagged, serrated or saw-tooth peaks which form the sky line of this range of mountains, and the county that bears the name "Sierra" was so called because of the jagged peaks within its borders.

Siskiyou County.—Created March 22, 1852. The word Siskiyou has never been authentically determined. It has generally been assumed that this is the name of a tribe of Indians inhabiting this region, but there are several stories regarding its derivation and meaning. Senator Jacob R. Snyder of San Francisco, who advocated the formation of this county, in an argument delivered April 14, 1852, in the Senate of the State of California, stated that the French name "Six Callieux" was given to a ford on the Umpqua River, at which place Michel La Frambeau, who led a party of Hudson Bay Company trappers, crossed in the year 1832. Six large stones or rocks lay in the river where they crossed, and they gave it the name of "Six Callieux" or "Six-stone Ford," and from this the mountain or butte derived its name, which was subsequently given to the county when created.

Solano County.—Created February 18, 1850. This county is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. "Solano" in Spanish means "east wind," and was the second name of the celebrated missionary Francisco Solano. When the chief of the powerful tribe of Suisunes Indians, which inhabited the

west side of the River Jesus Maria, was christianized, he was by this missionary baptized Solano, and as his residence was in the valley of Suisun, the name Solano was given to this county.

Sonoma County.—Created February 18, 1850. This county is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. "Sonoma" is an Indian word meaning "valley of the moon," because of the resemblance of this valley to the shape of that orb. In 1824, when Padre José Actimira baptized the chief of the Cho-cuy-en Indians, he gave him the baptismal name of Sonoma, and from this source the county derived its name.

Stanislaus County.—Created April 1, 1854. Chief Estanislao, of a powerful tribe of Indians who lived on what is known now as the Stanislaus River, but by the Indians called the Lakish-um-na, was educated at the Mission San José. He became a renegade and incited his tribe against the Spaniards, but was defeated in 1826 in a fierce battle on this river, which was afterwards called Stanislaus for the defeated Indian chief. It is from this river that the county derived its name.

Sutter County.—Created February 18, 1850. This is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. Sutter County was named after General John Augustus Sutter, a native of Switzerland, and a soldier of fortune. He first arrived in San Francisco July 2, 1839, obtained a large grant from the Mexican government, and called his first settlement New Helvetia, which is now the city of Sacramento.

Tehama County.—Created April 9, 1856. "Tehama" is the name of a tribe of Indians which originally inhabited that part of the State which now bears its name. The meaning of the word has never been determined.

Trinity County.—Created February 18, 1850. This is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. This county derived its name from Trinidad Bay, which was discovered and named by Captain Bruno Ezeta on June 11, 1775, a date that happened to be Trinity Sunday. The Spanish charts of the bay were misleading, and Major Reading and others thought that the river he named Trinity emptied into this bay.

Tulare County.—Created April 20, 1852. Commandante Fages, while hunting for desert-

ers in 1773, discovered a great lake surrounded by marshes and filled with rushes, which he named Los Tules (the tules, *Scirpus lacrustus*). In 1813, Captain Moraga on his exploring expedition passed through the valley of this lake, and named it "Valle de los Tules" (valley of the tules), from which this county takes its name.

Tuolumne County.—Created February 18, 1850. This county is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. "Tuolumne" is a corruption of the Indian word "talmalamne," which signifies "stone houses or caves," the same as the word "Shasta," but in another language. This was the name of a large tribe of Indians who lived on both sides of the river now bearing that name, from which the county derived its patronymic.

Ventura County.—Created March 22, 1872. On March 30, 1782, Padres Junipero Serra and Cambon dedicated a mission at San Buenaventura to San Buenaventura, Doctor Serafico (St. Bonaventura, Serafic Doctor), which is the name under which Giovani de Fidanza of Tuscany was canonized. Buenaventura is composed of two Spanish words, "Buena" meaning "good,"

and "Ventura" meaning "fortune"; hence the name signifies "good fortune." The county took its name from the latter Spanish word "Ventura." San Buenaventura has at all times been the name of the town, but this beautiful and euphonious name has been abbreviated by the United States Post Office Department to "Ventura."

Yolo County.—Created February 18, 1850. This is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. "Yolo" is a corruption of an Indian tribal name "Yo-loy," meaning "a place thick with rushes." This tribe was a branch of the Suisunes, and inhabited the marshes immediately west of Rio de Jesus Maria (now known as the Sacramento River).

Yuba County.—Created February 18, 1850. This is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. "Yuba" is a corruption of the Spanish word signifying "wild grape." A Spanish exploring expedition in 1824 found immense quantities of vines shading the banks of a river, which is the chief tributary of the Feather River. These vines were heavily laden with wild grapes (called *Uvas silvestres* in Spanish), and the river was

therefore called the Uva or Uba, and by a corruption of the word "Uba" the river eventually became known by its present name, "Yuba," from which the county derived its name.

Attention Californians!

This being a work of a constructive and of a preservative nature, it could hardly be deemed complete without an appeal to all true Californians and to those Societies which have been organized for the preservation of the old landmarks and Spanish names of California.

There is a power at work that is constantly changing, ruining and emasculating the romance and beauty of our glorious state by changing and abbreviating the names given to historic places by the old Padres.

That power is the Postal Department and the Railroad Companies!

There are numberless instances on record where the old original and romantic names have been either changed or abbreviated, but absolutely ruined in all cases, by these unpatriotic and unthinking people.

In Southern California one instance stands out more glaringly and prominently than others, namely, the changing of the name of San Buenaventura by the Postal authorities to that of

Ventura! Doubtless the "pay-rollers" of Uncle Sam are too busy to waste time writing such long names, but their fat salaries go on just the same, whether they write long or short names. If in their blissful ignorance they know not what they do, it is high time that the Government imposed a more thorough educational and historical test to applicants for positions in its offices or for appointees whose authority may (mis)lead them to deflower our beautiful California.

Since California has become a wonder, and one of the world's acknowledged show places, and thereby a source of great revenue to the Railroad corporations, why are these concerns permitted to "bite the hands that feed them," when they alter or change the old names? Not long ago in Central California the romantic name of "Paloma," was changed to "Dove" by the railroad people, and a little later, a name no less romantic and interesting was unceremoniously changed from "Pajaro," meaning bird in the Spanish language, to that of ignominious "Watsonville Junction!"

Who authorized these changes? Who are these pilferers of beauty and romantic dignity that they should be permitted to carry on this

devastation without a voice to say them no?

That cases cited are not the only ones on record, but are here shown to emphasize the enormity of the crime—for that is just what it is—it is a flagrant crime against the people of the State of California, and the criminals should be dealt with accordingly.

What are you going to do about it?

THE AUTHOR.